



Minesing Reeds

BALDWICK BLUFF: IMPORTANT LAND ACQUISITION

The team at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC's) Ontario region would like to thank the Friends of Minesing Wetlands for your incredible support and fundraising efforts for the Baldwick Bluff project. Together you raised over \$6,000 and helped protect this special place forever – thank you!

NCC announced on October 28th the protection of the 32-hectare (80-acre) property in the globally-important Minesing Wetlands, just 15 kilometres west of Barrie.

The newly created Baldwick Bluff Nature Reserve is a collection of forests, fields, wetlands and headwater streams surrounding the core of the Minesing Wetlands. This area acts as a protective buffer to the main wetlands, ensuring that wildlife have the room they need to thrive. It helps control floods and provides clean water for nearby communities. The area also provides important habitat for species at risk, including eastern meadowlark (threatened), bobolink (threatened), and Hine's emerald dragonfly (endangered), which is found only in the Minesing Wetlands in Canada.

This important local land purchase was made possible thanks to the generosity of many area residents and organizations, especially FOMW, the NVCA and the Southern Ontario Orchid Society. The project was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, and many private donors.

Laura Vaughan, Senior Development Officer
Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Region



Emerald Dragonfly
John & Jane Balaban / ontario.ca

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and Sustainability
for a World Class
Wetland,
For People, Forever

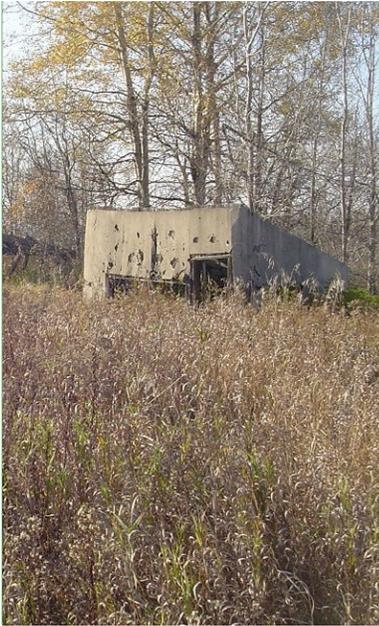
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- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofminesingwetlands/>

For more information
on the Minesing Wetlands
or for Friends of Minesing Wetlands
membership information,
please contact the
Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority
8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0,
(705) 424-1479



JOSEPHINE: GHOST TOWN OF MINESING

East of George Johnston Road, along the North Simcoe Rail Trail near the banks of Black Creek, lie the remnants of a tiny hamlet known as Josephine.

Joseph Budd built a mill and houses for his men in this area circa 1879 when the

North Simcoe Railway was opened and a profitable mill could be operated. The hamlet was named after his daughter Josephine.

Trains would stop on signal on Saturday mornings on their way from Allandale and Penetanguishene.

Many carloads of lumber

“Many carloads of lumber were sawed for local farmers and rail markets and a shingle and stave mill operated as late as 1914.”

INTERESTED IN OTHER VANISHED TOWNS OF THE MINESING WETLANDS?

Browse through past editions of Minesing Reeds at the Friends of Minesing Wetlands website, including the Spring 2015 edition which highlights pioneering spirit and the establishment of McKinnon Settlement.

were sawed for local farmers and rail markets and a shingle and stave mill operated as late as 1914.

The hamlet was serviced by a post office, school and Methodist church – possibly all in the same building! Later on, it was a 5 km trip north to school (Minesing S.S. No. 9) and spring travel was beset by floodwaters through the valley.

Today, regenerating fields and marshes, foundations and ruins are all that is left of this small community. The railway is long gone but its bed is part of the North Simcoe Rail Trail and forms part of the Great (formerly Trans Canada) Trail. An interpretive sign, which itself has seen better days, provides a sketch of Josephine and information about the community.

1987. Anderson, A. and Anderson, B.T. (eds.). History of Vespra Township. Published by The Vespra Township Council. 800 pp.

David Featherstone
Director, FOMW





SNOWSHOEING IN THE MINESING WETLANDS

While it's unfortunate that during some winters FOMW is not able to lead snowshoe hikes into Minesing Wetlands due to unsuitable snow and ice conditions, we were able to lead two hikes in early 2020: one on snowshoes, the other "just" hiking. We were thrilled to head in and explore the parts of Minesing that can only be explored when things are frozen, with 18 guests joining us over these two hikes. All together we were lucky enough to see two adult and one juvenile bald eagle fly in and land in trees and the snow; we shared binoculars and all got a good look. We saw otter slide tracks in the snow next to the Mad River, and also in the Mad caught a glimpse of mink which did not stick around to wonder who or what we were. We were also noticed by a Red-tailed hawk who captivated the group with many fly-bys to check us out and share its piercing calls.

The snow conditions were excellent for tracking animals. Tracks that we saw included porcupine, coyote, fisher, racoon, deer, and many small rodent tracks and tunnels. Many predation sites (where the outline of a bird of prey would indicate a successful or failed attempt at finding lunch) were seen on both trips. To describe the scene, small tracks (voles and mice) can be seen on top of the snow (sometimes with evidence of a tail track), or small tunnels can be noticed travelling under the snow. When those tracks intersect with a bird of prey track, you know it survived when the tracks continue on. When they do become a snack, you can tell that it has been stopped dead in its tracks, literally! Bits of blood and fluff tell the tale of what happened to the tail and its owner.

Naomi Saunders
Chair, FOMW

FOMW EVENTS

Friends of Minesing Wetlands has suspended all in-person events until further notice.

Please keep up to date on Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority openings online at nvca.on.ca.

With safety in mind for visitors and staff, please continue to maintain physical distancing and adhere to provincial and regional restrictions.

For more information on Friends of Minesing Wetlands events, please contact

fomwevents@gmail.com
or phone 705-424-1479.



YOUR DIRECTORS

Tom Hodgson has been a member of our board since the spring of 2019. He is a passionate conservation volunteer, whether it's planting trees or doing restoration work along a stream or creek. The Friends are happy to have Tom join our team as Vice-Chair!



The Friends are a small Board, and sadly have recently become smaller. We would like to say a heart felt thank you for our out-going directors this year.

FOMW Directors:
Naomi Saunders, Chair
Tom Hodgson, Vice Chair
Brittany Hope, Secretary
Byron Wesson, Treasurer
Directors at Large:
Dave Featherstone
Judy Watson
Richard Bowering



Kristyn Ferguson (L), who joined the group in 2013 and quickly became our secretary and editor, as well as our liaison with Nature Conservancy of Canada. A passionate advocate for nature!



Danny Mainville (R), a local nature lover who joined the Friends in 2015. He was our Co-Vice Chair and then Vice Chair. Always the first to offer a helping hand for any task, Danny is a great friend to the Friends.



Chelsea Deakin (L) has been a member since 2016. She was a great support for many projects, and a vocal advocate for Minesing when its integrity needed standing up for.

Friends of the Minesing Wetlands Membership

Are you interested in supporting efforts to help promote and protect the Minesing Wetlands?

If you visit the Minesing Wetlands, know someone who does, or if a general appreciation of nature is your thing, our membership program is back up and running!

Membership is just \$10 per person. Memberships are valid for the current calendar year and any membership purchased in the month of December will be for the that month and the following year.

In return, you will receive advance notice when we release dates of canoe, snowshoe, and hiking trips. As well you will receive a copy of our bi-annual newsletter, 'Minesing Reeds' via email and the knowledge that you are helping protect world class wetland habitat in your local area. As we operate solely on the hard work of our volunteer board, all of the funds that we raise go directly towards science and stewardship initiatives in the Minesing Wetland.

A membership can be a great special occasion gift for the nature lover on your list who has everything!

Purchase online (platform fee added):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-minesing-wetlands-membership-tickets100972292846>

Or, please return this form, with a cheque payable to NVCA c/o Friends of Minesing Wetlands, to the N.V.C.A., 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

I would like to receive Minesing Reeds via email Email Address _____